

Kris Strutner
PO Box 4136
Yakima, WA 98904
kris.strutner@gmail.com
(253) 261-8441
April 28, 2024

David Bowen
Region Director
Department of Ecology
Central Washington Region
15 W. Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902

Dear Mr. Bowen,

I write this letter with a sense of urgency and deep frustration regarding the persistent regulatory failures at the Yakima Health District (YHD), specifically concerning Yakima County Solid Waste facilities. The ongoing negligence in addressing serious environmental violations is unacceptable and poses significant risks to public health and environmental integrity.

For years, these facilities have blatantly disregarded state and federal environmental regulations, especially concerning the management of landfill gas emissions. Despite clear evidence of these violations, YHD, Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority, and to a certain extent portions of the Washington State Department of Ecology have displayed a disturbing level of complacency by failing to enforce necessary compliance measures. This inaction raises serious questions about the effectiveness of the YHD and the Board of Health.

The continuous oversight failures YHD and DOE Solid Waste allow these hazardous conditions to persist, undermining trust in the ability to safeguard the environment and the community. It is imperative that the Department of Ecology take immediate and decisive action to rectify these issues. The community you serve expects and deserves a regulatory body that is proactive and relentless in enforcing the law.

As a stakeholder directly impacted by this regulatory lapse, I demand a comprehensive review and swift action against all non-compliant operations. Your immediate attention to this matter is crucial. The situation at hand not only demands urgent corrective measures but also a transparent explanation as to why these issues have been allowed to continue for so long.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I expect a detailed response outlining the specific steps your office will undertake to address these long-standing failures. We cannot allow this situation to persist any further.

Sincerely,

Kris Strutner